

RÉSUMÉ 3rd balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT

Monday, February 20, 2017



The 3rd edition of balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT in Zell am See-Kaprun is over. This means that the 4th edition is on its way: **balloonalps February 10-17, 2018.**

The third edition of balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT took place in Zell am See-Kaprun from February 11-18, 2017. Balloons from Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Spain and Great Britain joined us in this great event this year.

In terms of competitions, this year's event was a home victory for Inge and Richard Mayerhofer, as their performance was the most stable during all 7 competitions. They were even able to beat the former world champion and multiple European champion David Bareford (GB). The Lithuanian team Skisky with their pilot Vytas Kerkodas came in third. But the picturesque mountain views of Zell am See-Kaprun enchanted all participants.

On Saturday, February 11, all participants met at the TAUERN SPA in Zell am See-Kaprun for a briefing and the welcome cocktail. ON February 14, pilots and crews met for an evening event at the Casino in Zell am See and a special balloonalps roulette tournament.

2.500 people came to see the Night of the Balloons in Kaprun, 4.500 at the Night of the Balloons in Zell am See. The colorful balloon envelopes fascinated visitors of all ages. Other highlights of this year's program were a ski and snowboard show, torch relay, airshow with model helicopters, a laser show and the amazing final fireworks.

Children really enjoyed the show with the model balloon. The daily shows at the airfield in Zell am See offered insights into the world of balloons to local kids as well as to vacationers. 555 children in Kindergartens and schools around Zell am See were visited by Jupp Hein, the model balloonist. He also visited retirement homes where over 30 people enjoyed his model balloon shows. He could collect 1000 Euros for the foundation "Kindertraum".

The airship was new at the balloonalps and turned out to be a real highlight. Passengers could book airship rides around the plain in Zell am See and experience a unique adventure.

On Friday, February 17, the ballooning week came to an end with the award ceremony at Kaprun Castle. We would like to thank all those responsible from the region of Zell am See-Kaprun, our sponsors and partners as well as our great team that made this fantastic week possible.

In 2018 the ballooning family will return to Zell am See-Kaprun: The date for the 4th edition of balloonalps - THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT 2018 will be is out: **February 10-17, 2018.**



Zell am See-Kaprun 11.-18. Feb 2017 balloonalps.com



FACTS 2017

- February 11 – 18, 2017 - Zell am See-Kaprun
- 3rd edition of the international ballooning week
- 30 balloons, passenger balloons and model balloons
- 6 nations (AUT, GER, LIT, CZE, ESP, GBR)
- 7 tasks /competitions in 5 days
- 2 „Nights of the balloons“
 - Kaprun: 2.500 visitors – 12 balloons and 2 model balloons
 - Zell am See: 4.000 visitors – 8 balloons and 2 model balloons
- 3 Social Events
 - Welcome /Briefing - TAUERN SPA
 - Casino night – Casino Zell am See
 - Award ceremony – Kaprun castle
- Numerous passenger flights, press rides and VIP rides with balloons
- Model balloon shows for children
- NEW: passenger flights with an airship
- Team balloonalps 2017: more than 15 staff members provided a perfect event

ABOUT THE EVENT:

Mag. Renate Ecker, Managing Director, Zell am See Tourismus GmbH

“The third edition of „balloonalps - The Alps Crossing Event“ in Zell am See-Kaprun has once again been a great success. The fantastic winter wonderland of Zell am See-Kaprun offered unforgettable moments to passengers of balloon rides as well as spectators on the ground. Especially the competitions like the Fly-In at lake Zell were thrilling and brought great excitement. The “Nights of the Balloons” with their spectacular shows in Zell am See and Kaprun attracted more than 7000 visitors. Children and adults alike were enchanted by the colorful and bright balloons. We are looking forward to „balloonalps – The Alps Crossing Event“ in February 2018. “

Gerhard Hobiger, chief organizer balloonalps

„Five out of six was the number of competitions the weather conditions allowed for during the third edition of balloonalps in 2017. This was possible thanks to the high-pressure weather conditions during this week. In the beginning of the week the weather was fantastic but unfortunately only little winds prevailed. In this weather, it can easily be that a balloon becomes difficult to steer – as was the case for one team that had to make an unplanned landing near the “Nagelköpfel” in Peisendorf. High up on the ridge the landing site was inaccessible via car, so a helicopter had to gather balloon basket, envelope as well as the good-humored and unharmed crew. In my opinion, Tuesday and Wednesday were the most perfect days of the whole week. High-altitude winds from south-east made it possible to fly for 250 km – and pass by Chiemsee and Munich. This is what pilots dream about! The “Night of the Balloons” in Kaprun and Zell am See which amazed many thousands of spectators ran smoothly at calm winds. One of my personal favorites was the participation of the team from Dresden with their airship.“



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While hot air balloons lift off in the morning hours and then disappear behind the horizon for spectators, the airship flies around the valley and comes back to the airfield after about 40 minutes. This gave many spectators the possibility to get a look at an airship from up close. Passengers that took a ride with the hot air balloons or the airship have had impressive moments that will last a long time. A wonderful week has passed without any noteworthy accidents. According to the saying: after the event is before the event, the preparations for the fourth edition of balloonalps - THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT 2018 have begun.

MMag. Heinz Derflinger, Head of Marketing balloonalps

„This year’s event has yet been another great success in Zell am See-Kaprun. This shows that we are on the right track for future events. Of course, the great weather has helped to offer the world fantastic pictures. Now we are going to start working on the fourth edition of balloonalps! We would like to welcome even more nations to this event and will do some international advertising to achieve that. “

Werner Schrank, Competition Manager balloonalps

„balloonalps is the perfect mix between flying for fun and competition. This year’s fantastic weather conditions helped a lot of course for participant to totally get their money’s worth. In addition to competitions like the Fly-in and the Hare and Hound, maximum distance flights of up to 240km, all the way to Germany, were possible. These are the perfect conditions for 2018. The winning team Mayerhofer provided the most stable performance during the 7 tasks and the former world and European champion David Bareford came “only” in second.”

Andreas Lanzinger, Meteorologist

“Already at the first briefing it became clear that high pressure weather conditions, dry and with a lot of sunshine, would prevail during the week of balloonalps. The high-altitude winds turned from soft breezes from south-west to northern winds for a short period. In the middle of the week winds came from the south-east and grew stronger. Until then, only local flights were possible, but then, on Tuesday and Wednesday long distance flights to the area around Munich were possible. Fogs posed no problem at all, in Pinzgau there were only a few low wafts of mist and by the time the balloons took off dry winds had blown fogs and mists in the landing area away already. Also, surface winds were favorable, aside from a few stronger winds in the area of Lake Zell. Winds were very calm when the Nights of the balloons took place on Monday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the sunny and mild weather allowed for some flights in the close vicinity before a cold front set an end to the high-pressure days.”



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RESULTS – Top 10

Competitions total 1-7

Rank	Points	Team	Pilot	Nation
1	6549	Bilek & Schüll	Inge & Richard Mayerhofer	AUT
2	6507	Black Magic	David Bareford	GBR
3	5617	Skisky Team	Vytas Kerdokas	LTU
4	5569	www.fallschirmspringen.at	Wuzzi Wagner	AUT
5	5539	Ballooning by Abel	Michael Abel	AUT
6	4994	Pink Piral	Eduard Meisel	AUT
7	4765	Country Sallon Benovy	Petr Hlavecek	CZE
8	4747	Siempre en las nubes	Christian Biosca	ESP
9	4578	Ultramagic UK	Richard Penney	GBR
10	4286	Ballonservice & Technik	Nik Binder	AUT

The 7 competition winners

- competition 1: Pilot Michael Abel, Team Ballooning by Abel (AUT)
- competition 2: Piloten Inge & Richard Mayerhofer, Team Bilek & Schüll (AUT)
- competition 3: Pilot David Bareford, Team Black Magic (GBR)
- competition 4: Pilot Wuzzi Wagner, Team www.fallschirmspringen.at (AUT)
- competition 5: Pilot Vytas Kerdokas, Team Skisky (LIT)
- competition 6: Pilot Michael Abel, Team Ballooning by Abel (AUT)
- competition 7: Pilot Michael Abel, Team Ballooning by Abel (AUT)

contact: (high resolution photos etc)

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